

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WILLIAM J. PERRY  
REMARKS EN ROUTE TO SEOUL, KOREA, FROM MANILA, THE PHILIPPINES  
OCTOBER 20, 1994

Q. Do you think Team Spirit is going to be called off during the visit? I realize no formal agreement has been reached as of now.

SECRETARY PERRY: Traditionally, the Republic of Korea is the one that announces Team Spirit exercises, not the U.S. government, so I don't want to be in the position of making any statement about Team Spirit. I will discuss Team Spirit while I'm there. Any announcements about it will come from them, not from me.

Q. I believe Parliament has voted to call it off, has it not?

SECRETARY PERRY: I don't think I can constructively talk about Team Spirit now, except to say I will discuss it with them.

Q. Will you discuss financing of this whole deal with them?

SECRETARY PERRY: Let me back up a little bit and say why I'm going there in the first place. I'm going there because, the President, as soon as the agreement was signed, wanted me to go talk with President Kim and with some of the officials of the Japanese government because they're going to be partners in the implementation of this.

Not only the question of financial partnership, but there are a lot of very complicated implementation details that have to get ironed out and the sooner we start these the better. He also felt that I was in the best position to offer the Korean government the assurances that this agreement was compatible in our long-term security interest. I have a reputation in Korea as being a hard-liner on this issue, and therefore, they'll understand that if I'm in favor of it, that these security issues have been taken into account.

To get to answer your question now, we'll just begin the discussion of implementation details including finance and so on. We have many months of discussions of those ahead of us.

Q. You are a hard-liner. Are you at all worried about this agreement?

SECRETARY PERRY: I'm very positive and very strong, unambiguously strong, in favor of this agreement. The reason I am is because, what I'm a hawk on is wanting to get rid of the North Korean nuclear program. I've been adamantly and consistently arguing that we should take steps to get rid of the threat of a North Korean nuclear program. Back last spring, when our negotiations had broken down, I was advocating

taking strong sanctions and building up, enhancing our military forces over there, and that's where you get the hawk reputation. But, I've never thought that was the preferred alternative. If we could come to an agreement with the North Koreans, that is the preferred alternative. Last spring it didn't look like we were going to be able to.

Q. Do you feel like you're going to a South Korea that is apprehensive about this agreement. That you're really there in a role of "convincing."

SECRETARY PERRY: I'm going to South Korea fully supportive, without a bit of apprehension about the agreement. I will be there to offer my assurances to the South Korean government that this is a very positive agreement for their security and for our security.

Q. Do you think that they need to be won over here?

SECRETARY PERRY: I don't know. I see mixed reports in the cables and in the press on that. I'll find out when I get there tomorrow morning.

Q. Sir, you're a hard-liner. Are there any signs that the hard-liners of North Korea may not be in favor of this?

SECRETARY PERRY: Other people have called me a hard-liner. I only consider myself adamant on the position that the North Korean nuclear program is not acceptable to the U.S. and that we should take action to get rid of it. I've always favored diplomatic action over military action in that regard.

Q. I just want to ask you two questions. Are you concerned as your deputy is that the agreement doesn't contain any provision for dealing with the spent fuel from the light water reactors? Do you think the accord needs to be modified to cope with that?

SECRETARY PERRY: I'm satisfied that that is a detail that can be worked out in the implementation. In the particular, one of the crucial implementation details is the contract that sets up that light water reactor program. That contract will have to specify the disposition of the fuel. I'm perfectly satisfied that that detail will be worked out satisfactorily in the preparation of the contract.

Q. There have been a number of military precautions taken over the last months -- pre-positioning of munitions, etc., etc. Do you think, given that this agreement will take some time to implement and the sequencing is somewhat delicate, do you think those precautions need to stay in place?

SECRETARY PERRY: This agreement does many, many things in the nuclear field, but in the political field, this provides an environment which allows for improvement of the political relationships. It does not guarantee them. It provides an environment that allows them. If that environment works, and if the political agreements do improve, then

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we can start looking more seriously at our deployments, equipment. In the meantime, I don't see any reason for changing them.

Q. I would like to ask one question on another subject. Going back a few days, it seems like a century, are we going to proceed with these 30,000 troop deployment to the Gulf or not? Is it going to be cut off at 10 and 12,000 as was mentioned the other day at the Pentagon as a possibility or have you now decided that that's sufficient?

SECRETARY PERRY: Since I talked with you a few days ago, we have moved ahead and ordered the deployment of the other brigade of the 24th Infantry Division. Those troops are on their way over there now to join up with their equipment. There were two issues hanging at that time. That was one. The other one was the marines. We're still holding on the marine deployment -- have not taken the final action to order the deployment of those marines.

Q. Are you going to wait until you get a demarche from the allies to warn Iraq to keep out of the area and see how they respond before you call that off?

SECRETARY PERRY: We'll watch for developments for a few more days on what's happening before we take final action on the marines.

Q. The decision on whether or not to send these marines does not rely on any agreement that you're going to make with the allies to order Iraq out, it's strictly on whether Iraq pulls out of there?

SECRETARY PERRY: It has not to do with any discussion we have underway with allies right now. It has to do with actions of Iraq.

Q. Are you still trying to pursue this "no-drive" zone as you discussed it with pertaining to their Republican Guard as sort of a security buffer? Is that still a concept the administration is pursuing?

SECRETARY PERRY: The action which the coalition will take to follow up on the U.N. resolution has yet to be agreed upon by the coalition. We will be discussing this in the days ahead of us. I don't want to forecast the outcome of those discussions.

Q. But you're still in favor of that?

SECRETARY PERRY: Yes. I'm still in favor of being fairly explicit to Iraq about...

Q. One last Gulf thing for me. You had mentioned the projected cost of the operation had the marines been deployed somewhere between \$500 million and a billion dollars. Obviously, you solicited contributions in the region. What portion of that cost were you able to come up with in consultations with the Gulf states? How much are they willing to pay for of that sum?

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SECRETARY PERRY: We don't have a final agreement on that point yet, but I expect that the great majority of those costs are going to be borne by allies and only a minority by the United States.

Q. Is that a factor in the troop deployment decision?

SECRETARY PERRY: No.

Thank you, sir.

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